

**The Collaborative Commission  
on Domestic Violence**  
presents the inaugural

# ANNUAL Domestic Violence Awareness SYMPOSIUM

**October 29 - 30, 2020**

**#CCDVSymposium2020**

  @DV\_Commission

 @DomesticViolenceCommission



Collaborative Commission  
on Domestic Violence

**LOVE IS...**



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT

# SCHEDULE

## October 29 - Day 1

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>Welcome and Keynote Address</b> Patty Mills—San Antonio Spurs
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>SESSION 1:</b> What is domestic violence?
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>SESSION 2:</b> Understanding the needs of children exposed to domestic violence: The Role of the Court and Community Services
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<b>Legislative Panel on Federal Domestic Violence Policy</b> Congressmen Joaquin Castro and Lloyd Doggett
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>CIVIL LAW TRACK</b>
	<b>SESSION 3A:</b> A systematic approach to addressing domestic violence in family court cases
	<b>CRIMINAL LAW TRACK</b>
	<b>SESSION 3B:</b> Effective Response and Investigation of Intimate Partner Violence Incidents
	<b>COMMUNITY TRACK</b>
	<b>SESSION 3C:</b> Restorative Justice Approaches to Domestic Violence

# SCHEDULE

## October 29 - Day 1

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	<p><b>CIVIL LAW TRACK</b></p> <p><b>SESSION 4A:</b> Addressing custody, visitation, and other child-related relief in civil protection order cases</p> <p><b>SESSION 4B:</b> Elements of victim-centered prosecution</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY TRACK</b></p> <p><b>SESSION 4C:</b> Violence Interrupters and Domestic Violence Prevention</p>
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<p><b>CIVIL LAW TRACK</b></p> <p><b>SESSION 5A:</b> Protecting victims, children, interveners, and the community from firearms violence in family court cases</p> <p><b>CRIMINAL LAW TRACK</b></p> <p><b>SESSION 5B:</b> Protecting victims, children, interveners, and the community from firearms violence in criminal DV cases</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY TRACK</b></p> <p><b>SESSION 5C:</b> From Research to Practice: Assessing Risk for Intimate Partner Homicide</p>

# SCHEDULE

## October 30 - Day 2

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	<div>CIVIL LAW TRACK</div> <p><b>SESSION 6A:</b> Enhancing Safety and Accountability: Incorporating Risk Assessment into Domestic Violence Cases</p> <div>CRIMINAL LAW TRACK</div> <p><b>SESSION 6B:</b> Criminal trial best practices: From initial appearance through post-conviction</p> <div>COMMUNITY TRACK</div> <p><b>SESSION 6C:</b> Improving Accessibility in Domestic Violence Services</p>
9:50 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	<b>SESSION 7:</b> The Civil Protection Order Process: Best Practices for Petitioning, Issuing and Enforcement
10:50 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>WRAP UP SESSION:</b> Looking forward to the 87 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session: Coordinating Our Advocacy Efforts

# SPEAKERS



**Patty Mills**  
*San Antonio Spurs*

Patty was born on August 11, 1988 in Canberra, Australia. His father Benny is from the Torres Strait Islands, and his mother Yvonne is an Australian Aboriginal originally from the Kokatha people in South Australia.

Patty was born into a family that was surrounded by basketball. His parents founded Shadows Basketball in the early 80's, a local Canberra club created to provide a sense of community, familiarity, and opportunities for Indigenous people through basketball.

Today, Patty plays with the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA and is the only Indigenous Australian to win an NBA Championship (2013/14 season). He is also a triple Olympian (Beijing '08, London '12, Rio de Janeiro '16) and currently represents the Australian Boomers.



## Congressman Joaquin Castro

Joaquin Castro (D-San Antonio) represents Texas' 20th district in the U.S. House of Representatives. Serving his fourth term, Rep. Castro sits on the House Intelligence and Education and Labor Committees, serves as Vice Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Rep. Castro is also Chair of the Texas Democratic Caucus, and founded the Congressional Pre-K Caucus, the U.S.-Japan Caucus, and the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN. Before Congress, Rep. Castro graduated from Stanford University and Harvard Law School, and served five terms in the Texas Legislature.



## Congressman Lloyd Doggett

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett represents communities from San Antonio to Austin. He serves as Chairman of the Health Subcommittee on the House Ways & Means Committee, the oldest committee of the United States Congress. Doggett is also a member of the Ways and Means Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee, the Joint Committee on Taxation, and the House Budget Committee. Representative Doggett's wife, Libby, recently served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education. They have two daughters: Lisa, an Austin physician; and Cathy, who leads teams across Texas that work with new, disadvantaged parents.



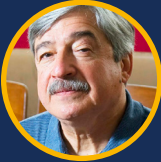
**Loretta Frederick, Esq.**

*Policy Advisor, Battered Women's Justice Project*



**Tracy Shoberg, Esq.**

*Deputy Director of the SAFeR Project, Battered Women's Justice Project*



**Dr. Peter Jaffe, PhD**

*Academic Director of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children and Professor, Faculty of Education, Western University, London, Ontario*



**Dave Thomas**

*Senior Advisor, International Association of Chiefs of Police*



**Melissa Susswein, MSW**

*Director of Translational Research Communications, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin*



**Nina Harris**

*Education Specialist, Office of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response, Harvard University*



**Hon. Mary Madden**

*4th Judicial District Court, Minneapolis, MN*



**Darren Mitchell, Esq.**

*Consultant, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*



**John Wilkinson, Esq.**

*Advisor, Aequitas*



**Dave Keck, Esq.**

*National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms*



**Dr. Jill Messing, PhD, MSW**

*Professor, School of Social Work and Director, Office of Gender-Based Violence, Arizona State University*



**Robyn Mazur, Esq.**

*Director of Gender and Justice Initiatives, Center for Court Innovation*





**Hon. Roberto Cañas (ret.)**

*Dallas, TX*



**Hon. Jeffery Kremers (ret.)**

*Milwaukee, WI*



**Dr. Bridgett Ortega, Esq.**

*John Marshall Law School*



**Deborah Scharven**

*Accessibility Compliance Manager, Disability  
Access Office, City of San Antonio*



**Sarah Henry, Esq.**

*Attorney Advisor, National Center on Protection  
Orders and Full Faith and Credit*



**Sheila Schwanekamp, Esq.**

*N.Y.S. Court Attorney Referee*



**Alexandra Cantrell**

*Public Policy Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence*



**Krista Del Gallo**

*Public Policy Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence*



**Molly Voyles**

*Public Policy Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence*



**Hailey Nolasco**

*Director, RISE PROJECT, Center for Court Innovation*



**Keyla Navarro**

*Uptown RISE Coordinator*



**Al-tabar**

*Queens and Staten Island RISE Coordinator*



**Hon. Peter Sakai**

*San Antonio, TX*



**Hon. Monique Diaz**

*San Antonio, TX*



**Dr. Colleen Bridger**

*MPH, PhD—Assistant City Manager, City of San Antonio*

# AGENDA

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## October 29 - Day 1

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**8:30 AM - 9:30 AM**

**Welcome and Keynote Address by Patty Mills—*San Antonio Spurs***

**9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

**SESSION 1**

**What is domestic violence?**

Loretta Frederick, Esq.—*Policy Advisor, Battered Women's Justice Project*

Tracy Shoberg, Esq.—*Deputy Director of the SAFeR Project, Battered Women's Justice Project*

**Session description:** Domestic violence is a term that means many things to many people. Family court, juvenile court and criminal court practitioners, treatment professionals, advocates, and mediators may use the term to mean one thing and be heard by others as saying something completely different. In addition, each perpetrator and survivor of domestic violence may have a completely different understanding of what constitutes abuse than any of the practitioners who are intervening in their lives. Complicating this picture is the fact that each survivor has a unique experience of abuse that must be seen in the context of their lives, including health, economic or immigration status, race and other features of their lives. This session will explore the range of behaviors, including coercive control, which may be exhibited by an abuser and the range of effects of that abuse so that practitioners can respond to the actual lived experience of abuse as it appears in each family.

**10:30 AM - 10:45 AM**

**BREAK**

**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM**

**SESSION 2**

**Understanding the needs of children exposed to domestic violence: The Role of the Court and Community Services**

Dr. Peter Jaffe, PhD, *Academic Director of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children and Professor, Faculty of Education, Western University, London, Ontario*

**Session Description:** Both the general public and professionals tend to overlook the harm to children and youth living with domestic violence. These children may suffer serious short-term and long-term consequences in term of their mental health and social adjustment. In extreme cases, they may suffer serious injuries or death. Although child homicides are relatively rare events, many of these deaths appear predictable and preventable with hindsight. Some of this hindsight has come from various death review processes across Canada, the US, Europe, Australia and New Zealand that have developed in the past decade. The presentation outlines the often repeated lessons learned from these tragedies that include the need for enhanced professional and public education to save children's lives. Future directions are discussed in terms of the need for better risk assessment, safety planning and risk management by legal and mental health professionals with a special focus on child custody and parenting disputes.

**11:45 AM - 12:00 PM**

**BREAK**

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

**Legislative Panel on Federal Domestic Violence Policy**

Congressmen Joaquin Castro and Lloyd Doggett

**1:00 PM - 2:15 PM**

**CIVIL LAW TRACK**

**SESSION 3A**

**A systematic approach to addressing domestic violence in family court cases**

Loretta Frederick, Esq.—*Policy Advisor, Battered Women’s Justice Project*

Tracy Shoberg, Esq.—*Deputy Director of the SAFeR Project, Battered Women’s Justice Project*

**Session description:** The presence of domestic violence in a family court case can challenge any practitioner who seeks to respond in a way that is not over-restrictive nor under-protective. It can be difficult to determine what is going on in any given case and to know how dangerous an abuser is, what tactics need to be addressed, and how the abuse has affected the adult survivor and any children. Parenting arrangements are notoriously difficult to structure in a way that produces safe and workable outcomes. Fortunately, there is a ground-breaking four-pronged approach to decision-making in DV-related parenting cases known as “SAFeR.” This session will introduce this approach and the guides and tools which can improve the ability of family court practitioners to determine the nature, context and effect of any violence so that responses produce safe and workable outcomes for battered parents and their children.

**CRIMINAL LAW TRACK**

**SESSION 3B**

**Effective Response and Investigation of Intimate Partner Violence Incidents**

Dave Thomas—*Senior Advisor, International Association of Chiefs of Police*

**Session description:** The objectives of this session are to emphasize the need for victim-centered, offender focused policies and procedures in addressing intimate partner violence; identify the importance of trauma informed investigations/

responses to intimate partner violence; understand the need to routinely screen for co-occurring crimes as a standard operating procedure in the investigation of intimate partner crimes; recognize the importance of sound self-defense/predominant aggressor determinations in intimate partner violence incidents.

**COMMUNITY TRACK**

**SESSION 3C**

**Restorative Justice Approaches to Domestic Violence**

Melissa Susswein, MSW—*Director of Translational Research Communications, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin*

Nina Harris—*Education Specialist, Office of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response, Harvard University*

**Session description:** In this session we will explore the fundamental tenants of restorative practices/restorative justice and its implications for prevention and response in domestic violence work. We will use case studies to explore Tier I (relationship building), Tier II (repairing harm), Tier III (community re-entry) prevention and intervention strategies, as well as challenges and obstacles to engaging holistic, restorative resolutions that support and transform, individuals and communities.

**2:15 PM - 2:30 PM**

**BREAK**

**2:30 PM - 3:45 PM**

**CIVIL LAW TRACK**

**SESSION 4A**

**Addressing custody, visitation, and other child-related relief in civil protection order cases**

Hon. Mary Madden—*4th Judicial District Court, Minneapolis, MN*

Darren Mitchell, Esq.—*Consultant, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*

**Session description:** Custody and other child-related relief within protective orders often is necessary to protect the safety and wellbeing of the victim and children, helping to address the long and short-term effects on children of domestic violence exposure, abusers' use of children as tools of abuse, and the increased risk associated with victims separating from abusers. Yet, for many reasons, obtaining such relief can be very challenging for victims. This session explores practical strategies that courts and other stakeholders in Bexar County can use to ensure that protective orders include custody and related provisions that are safe, effective, and responsive to the needs of victim parents and their children.

#### CRIMINAL LAW TRACK

##### SESSION 4B

#### **Elements of victim-centered prosecution**

John Wilkinson, Esq.—*Advisor, Aequitas*

**Session description:** This presentation will define the elements of a victim-centered prosecution, including the importance of supporting the victim throughout the process, collaborating with allied professionals to meet the needs of each victim, and preparing to present the most persuasive case possible whether or not the victim is able to testify in Court. The presentation will focus on the legal requirements for introducing the out-of-court statements of a non-testifying witness, preserving the victim's testimony at a proceeding that affords an opportunity for cross-examination, and establishing grounds for forfeiture by wrongdoing.



**COMMUNITY TRACK**

**SESSION 4C**

**Violence Interrupters and Domestic Violence Prevention**

Hailey Nolasco— *Director, RISE PROJECT, Center for Court Innovation*

Keyla Navarro—*Uptown RISE Coordinator*

Al-tabar— *Queens and Staten Island RISE Coordinator*

**Session description:** The RISE project will discuss innovative community-led approaches to transform traditional responses to intimate partner violence (IPV). RISE works across New York City to support Cure Violence programs with trainings, community workshops, community norms change around IPV that support behavior change, and individual support for people causing harm in their relationships.

**3:45 PM - 4:00 PM**

**BREAK**

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**CIVIL LAW TRACK**

**SESSION 5A**

**Protecting victims, children, interveners, and the community from firearms violence in family court cases**

Darren Mitchell, Esq.—*Consultant, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*

**Session description:** Research demonstrates that abusers' access to firearms is the single greatest risk factor for intimate partner homicide, with the risk increasing five-fold. The civil protective order system presents a critical opportunity to address this risk and prevent firearms violence perpetrated by abusers against victims, children, first responders, and the broader community. This requires a collaborative approach by all stakeholders involved in the system. To inform and support efforts already underway in Bexar County to better address firearms in the protective order system, this session explores the

public health impact of abusers' access to firearms, the relevant federal and Texas laws, and concrete, practical strategies that can be implemented in Bexar County to learn about and prevent firearms access by abusers who are prohibited by law from possessing them.

#### CRIMINAL LAW TRACK

##### SESSION 5B

### **Protecting victims, children, interveners, and the community from firearms violence in criminal DV cases**

Dave Keck, Esq.—*National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms*

**Session description:** This discussion covers the basic four steps to an effective firearm surrender protocol, then discusses each step in further detail, including considerations which may be impacted by both current state, as well as federal law. The discussion then turns to specific areas of concern and challenges for the criminal system when implementing a protocol for firearm surrender. These include both post-charging, pre-conviction as well as post-conviction scenarios with considerations applying to both. The discussion also includes methods of incorporating probation or parole situations into a surrender protocol.

#### COMMUNITY TRACK

##### SESSION 5C

### **From Research to Practice: Assessing Risk for Intimate Partner Homicide**

Dr. Jill Messing, PhD, MSW—*Professor, School of Social Work and Director, Office of Gender-Based Violence, Arizona State University*

**Session description:** This session will describe the research behind the development of risk assessment instruments and the use of these instruments in an evidence-based practice framework. Dr. Messing will use an example of research that is underway in Texas to describe how researchers develop instruments that predict risk of intimate partner homicide.

She will then discuss the various ways that risk assessments are used in practice, focusing in particular on the use of risk assessment in collaborative interventions.

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## October 30 - Day 2

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**9:00 AM - 9:50 AM**

**CIVIL LAW TRACK**

**SESSION 6A**

**Enhancing Safety and Accountability: Incorporating Risk Assessment into Domestic Violence Cases**

Robyn Mazur, Esq.—*Director of Gender and Justice Initiatives, Center for Court Innovation*

Sheila Schwanekamp, Esq.—*N.Y.S. Court Attorney Referee*

**Session description:** This session will provide participants with information on domestic violence risk assessment factors and tools; the context and limitations of risk tools; and how courts are using risk information in domestic violence cases. The presenters will use examples from the use of domestic violence risk tools in the Erie County (NY) Domestic Violence Mentor Court as well as provide an opportunity for participants to apply the information in interactive case studies.

**CRIMINAL LAW TRACK**

**SESSION 6B**

**Criminal trial best practices: From initial appearance through post-conviction**

Hon. Roberto Cañas (ret.)—*Dallas, TX*

Hon. Jeffery Kremers (ret.)—*Milwaukee, WI*

Dr. Bridgett Ortega, Esq.—*John Marshall Law School*

**Session description:** This session will focus on strategies for improving responses to criminal cases involving domestic violence. Participants will learn strategies to identify the context of the domestic violence in a family and the effects of DV on

victims, critical evidentiary issues (including an approach to the application of *Crawford v. Washington*), and effective pre-trial and post-conviction practice.

**COMMUNITY TRACK**

**SESSION 6C**

**Improving Accessibility in Domestic Violence Services**

Deborah Scharven—*Accessibility Compliance Manager, Disability Access Office, City of San Antonio*,

**Session description:** This introductory webinar explores the unique dynamics of disability and domestic violence experienced by individuals with disabilities. Participants will receive an overview of common barriers faced by survivors with disabilities and learn how to provide services and programs that are safe and accessible for all.

**9:50 AM - 10:00 AM**

**BREAK**

**10:00 AM - 10:50 AM**

**SESSION 7**

**The Civil Protection Order Process: Best Practices for Petitioning, Issuing and Enforcement**

Sarah Henry, Esq.—*Attorney Advisor, National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit*

**Session description:** Do you have questions about the civil protection order system? How protection orders work? Who the key players are and how they interact? This webinar will provide participants with information on making a more survivor centered and effective protection order system. Information for advocates, law enforcement, courts and attorneys will be offered. A tool highlighting best practices for various parts of the civil protection order system will be disseminated.

**10:50 AM - 11:00 AM**

**BREAK**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**WRAP UP SESSION**

**Looking forward to the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:  
Coordinating Our Advocacy Efforts**

Alexandra Cantrell—*Public Policy Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence*

Krista Del Gallo—*Public Policy Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence*

Molly Voyles—*Public Policy Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence*

**Session Description:** This final session will introduce legislative priorities for the Texas Council on Family Violence and prompt engagement among participants in policy advocacy efforts that support survivors and their families.

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## **Thank you to our co-sponsors for their support**

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University of the Incarnate Word

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University of Texas Health  
and Science Center School of Public Health

Texas A&M San Antonio

Alamo Colleges District

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